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NORTH LONSDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1960



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NORTH LONSDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1960

Town Hall,

ULVERSTON.

September, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the
North Lonsdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1960.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	127,448
Population - Census, 1951	17,248
Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1960	15,880
Number of inhabited houses	5,711
Rateable Value	£144,183
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£567.17.4.

In accordance with a recommendation approved by the Council and by the County Council the name of the Councils administrative area was changed from Ulverston Rural District to North Lonsdale Rural District with effect from 1st April, 1960.

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical lakeland country with lakes and fells merging into the more southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shores of Morecambe Bay. Two lakes, Coniston and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the district.

The principal industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1960 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 236 births registered 121 were males, of which 2 were illegitimate and 115 were females, of which 8 were illegitimate. The total number of live births registered shows a big increase over recent years and is the highest since 1952.

Approximately 78% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the main causes of death were:- Heart disease 108, Vascular lesions of nervous system 47 and Malignant growths 29. Of the 108 deaths from heart disease 66 were due to Coronary artery disease.

Year	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1960	236	x14.9	231	x14.5	5	20.7	Nil	Nil	3	12.7	2	8.5
1959	182	11.4	230	14.4	4	21.5	Nil	Nil	4	22	3	16.5
1958	207	12.9	245	15.3	4	19	1	4.74	4	19.3	1	4.8
1957	206	12.8	207	12.9	5	24	Nil	Nil	1	5	1	5
1956	200	12.3	244	15.4	5	24	Nil	Nil	5	25	5	25
1955	204	12.5	211	12.9	4	19	Nil	Nil	6	29	5	25
Average 5 years 1955-59	-	12.4	-	14.2	-	21.5	-	0.95	-	20	-	15.2

xAdjusted birth rate (comparability factor, 1.13) = 16.8 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 0.89) = 12.9 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	<u>England & Wales.</u>		<u>North Lonsdale Rural District</u>	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1960	17.1	11.5	16.8	12.9
1959	16.5	11.6	12.9	12.8
1958	16.4	11.7	14.6	13.6
1957	16.1	11.5	14.5	11.4
1956	15.6	11.7	14.1	13.7

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,
Grange-over-Sands Urban District,
Ulverston Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector:-

H.C. CLAYDON, Certificate - Royal
Sanitary Institute. Certificate
of Royal Sanitary Institute -
Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector:-

D.M. PICKLES, Certificate - Royal
Sanitary Institute. Certificate
Royal Society of Health -
Meat and Other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.

The townships to the west and south of Ulverston derive their water supplies from the Barrow undertaking and those adjacent to Grange from the Grange undertaking. The water in both cases is treated before going into supply. In the remainder of the district water is obtained either from public supplies owned by the North Lonsdale Rural District Council or from private sources. The public supplies at Broughton-in-Furness, Coniston, Torver, Egton, Hawkshead and Kirkby are chlorinated, but the remaining townships are supplied with untreated water.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination have been taken at regular monthly intervals. The results have been largely unsatisfactory. 51 samples of water from untreated supplies were submitted of which 35 were unsatisfactory, and 58 samples of treated water were submitted of which 23 proved unsatisfactory. The source of contamination was eliminated where possible and in the cases of treated supplies adjustments were made to the chlorinating plants but with small supplies such as these, where the level of contamination varies almost daily, it is extremely difficult to maintain a chlorine dosage which will destroy the bacteria without producing a distasteful water.

4 samples were taken from private supplies, 2 of which proved unsatisfactory.

In July a report was presented to the Public Health Committee on the quality of the various public water supplies in the District, based on regular sampling during the period April, 1959 to March 1960. The conclusions reached are summarised in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the details in the following pages regarding Water Supplies to Houses, also for the particulars about Drainage and Sewerage.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A fortnightly collection of refuse is maintained from premises where dustbins are provided and a five or six weekly collection is made from ashpits and privy middens, (except the majority of farms). Disposal is to nine semi-controlled tips in various parts of the district.

Water Supplies to Houses.

	<u>No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1960.</u>		<u>From Public Mains</u>				<u>From Private Supplies e.g., Wells, Springs, etc</u>	
	<u>Existing houses.</u>	<u>New houses.</u>	<u>Direct to Houses.</u>		<u>By means of Standpipes.</u>		<u>No. of dwelling houses.</u>	<u>No. of popul- ation.</u>
<u>TOWNSHIP.</u>			<u>No. of dwelling houses.</u>	<u>No. of popul- ation.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses.</u>	<u>No. of popul- ation.</u>		
Aldingham	-	3	298	999	-	-	3	13
Allithwaite Lower	-	4	503	1381	-	-	42	164
Allithwaite Upper	-	-	228	762	-	-	10	36
Angerton	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	21
Blawith	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	118
Broughton East	-	-	28	106	-	-	25	97
Broughton West	-	-	276	847	-	-	39	137
Cartmel Fell	-	2	23	72	-	-	99	268
Claife	-	1	147	392	-	-	30	115
Colton	3	2	112	416	-	-	222	672
Coniston	1	1	311	962	1	4	42	162
Dunnerdale	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	180
Egton with Newland	1	1	142	371	-	-	160	540
Haverthwaite	-	-	222	650	4	7	54	205
Holker Lower	-	9	444	1400	-	-	46	183
Kirkby	-	-	419	1242	-	-	30	112
Hawkshead	6	-	220	594	-	-	10	48
Lowick	-	-	35	118	-	-	43	154
Mansriggs	-	-	1	5	-	-	10	40
Osmotherley	-	-	45	112	-	-	47	158
Pennington	-	4	401	1256	-	-	8	33
Satterthwaite	-	-	-	-	-	-	106	312
Skelwith	-	-	-	-	-	-	93	258
Staveley	-	1	103	266	-	-	34	110
Subberthwaite	-	-	9	30	-	-	15	47
Torver	-	-	24	84	-	-	37	111
Urswick	-	1	384	1162	1	3	5	19

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>	<u>Method of Disposal.</u>
Aldingham	Leece	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters.
	Gleaston	Sewage tank.
	Scales	Two sewage tanks with overflow to land.
	Baycliffe Newbiggin	Sewage tanks with outfall to sea. Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Allithwaite Lower	Allithwaite	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to sea.
	Cartmel	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper	Lindale	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Winster.
	Newton	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream.
Broughton East.	Field Broughton	Sewage tank.
Broughton West.	Broughton-in-Furness	Sewage tank with overflow to tidal water of River Duddon.
	Foxfield	Tidal waters of River Duddon.
Claife	Near Sawrey	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton	Bouth	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Oxenpark	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston	Coniston	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton	Greenodd	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge	Sewage tank.
	Sparkbridge	Sewage disposal works, with outfall to river.
Haverthwaite	Haverthwaite	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
		Sewage disposal works at Finsthwaite Lane.
Hawkshead	Hawkshead	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate	Two sewage tanks with outfall to stream and stream.
	Hannakin	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
Holker Lower	Cark	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Ravenstown	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters.
	Flookburgh	Pumping plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown, outfall to stream.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>	<u>Method of Disposal.</u>
Kirkby Ireleth	Sandside	Sewage tank with outfall to tidal water of River Duddon.
	Chapples	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Soutergate	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Beckside	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Marshside	Sewage tank with outfall to tidal waters.
Lowick	Lowick Green	Sewage tank with outfall to river Crake.
Osmotherley	Beehive	Tank with outfall to stream.
	Three Bridges	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington	Swarthmoor	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Trinkeld	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Loppergarth	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream.
	Cross-a-Moor	Outfall works to Ulverston Urban District Council.
Satterthwaite	Satterthwaite	Private sewer to works with outfall to stream.
Staveley	Staveley	Private sewer to tank with outfall to stream.
Torver	Torver	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick	Great Urswick	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn.
	Little Urswick	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn.
	Stainton	Sewage tanks with outfall to land.
	Bardsea	Sewage tanks with outfall to sea.

HOUSING.

During the year 8 new houses were erected by the Council and 21 by private builders.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

1. (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 422
- (b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 629
- (c) No. of dwelling houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 267
2. Total No. of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit 122

2. <u>Houses Demolished.</u>	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons.</u>	<u>Families.</u>
In Clearance Areas: Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas: As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	1	Nil	Nil

3. Unfit Houses Closed. Nil

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:		<u>By Owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(1) After informal action by local authority		22	Nil
(2) After formal notice under -			
(a) Public Health Acts		2	Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957		Nil	Nil

5. <u>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):</u>		<u>No. of Houses.</u>
(1) Position at end of year: Retained for temporary accommodation	(a) Under Section 48	Nil
	(b) Under Section 17 (2)	Nil
	(c) Under Section 46	Nil
	(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	9

6. Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement: Nil

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement Grants etc.

Action during the year:

- (a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority
- (b) Approved by local authority
- (c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry
- (d) Finally approved by Ministry
- (e) Work completed
- (f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above

<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.</u>
60	73
60	73
Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil
51	56
6	6

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959-Standard Grants:

No. of dwellings or other buildings affected

Action during the year:

- (a) Applications submitted to local authority
- (b) Applications approved by local authority
- (c) Work completed

16
16
9

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

1.	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
	Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	2	Nil	Nil
	Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	32	3	Nil
	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Cases in which defects were found			<u>Referred</u>	
	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
	Want of cleanliness (S1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Overcrowding (S2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Unreasonable temperature (S3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Inadequate ventilation (S4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
	(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	2
	(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the North Lonsdale Rural District during the five years 1955-1959, compared with the number in 1960.

Disease	Number of cases in year					<u>1960</u>		
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Number of Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths
Scarlet fever	6	7	3	13	11	6	4	0
Measles	199	44	20	398	85	112	0	0
Whooping cough	4	5	28	43	0	10	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pneumonia	4	1	0	3	5	0	0	0
Erysipelas	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0
Dysentery	56	1	2	4	0	25	0	0
Poliomyelitis	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	1	9	22	2	1	1	0
TOTALS	275	62	64	484	105	156	6	0

Of the 112 cases of measles, 107 were notified during the 4th quarter of the year.

The outbreak of dysentery was of the Sonne variety. Most of the victims were children at two small schools but a few other cases were discovered including a worker at the farm which supplied the schools with raw T.T. milk. It was probable that a batch of milk was infected by the farm worker before he went off sick.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis and mortality during 1960.

Age Periods.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
	6		0		2		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in North Lonsdale Rural District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	0	0
1950	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0
1951	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1
1952	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0
1953	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	0
1954	8	5	0	1	2	1	1	0
1955	1	5	1	0	2	0	0	0
1956	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
1957	2	5	0	0	2	1	0	0
1958	3	5	1	0	2	1	0	0
1959	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Public Health Inspectors Report.

There was one case of food poisoning reported during the year. Unfortunately there was considerable delay before the case was notified so that reliable information was largely unobtainable, but it was almost certain that the food concerned was obtained from a hotel in the District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1949 & 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under these Acts during the year.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the North Lonsdale Rural District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspectors for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Senior Public Health Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st

DECEMBER, 1960.

I beg to submit the report for the year 1960 on the work of the Public Health Inspectors Department.

In the preamble to my report for the year 1959 I referred to the greatly improved position in regard to routine inspections made throughout the district in that year. Such work, as I pointed out, is not spectacular, but it must be regarded as the most important of duties carried out by the department. In the year now under consideration, The number of routine inspections was higher than in any previous year and this must be viewed with satisfaction. A summary of all inspections whether of a routine nature or otherwise, is given below.

Summary of Inspections made during the year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 92.	319
Caravan Sites.	138
Housing Act, 1957	203
Rent Act, 1957	1
Housing Applications.	107
Catering Establishments.	139
Food Preparing Premises (including shrimp pickers dwellings)	361
Ice Cream Premises.	25
Hawkers.	18
Milk and Dairies.	160
Slaughterhouses.	532
Factories Act, 1937 to 1959.	34
Clean Air Act, 1956.	3
Waste Foods Order.	23
Water Supplies.	145
Shops Act, 1950.	21
Schools.	25
Verminous Premises.	12
Infectious Disease.	4
Rodent Control. (including visits by Rodent Operator)	2538
Miscellaneous.	195

Total number of inspections 5,006.

General Information.

No. of Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack-bars and similar catering establishments.	123	-see Note 1.
No. of General grocers & provision dealers.	75	
No. of Greengrocers shops.	2	
No. of Butchers shops.	8	
No. of Bakers and/or confectioners.	8	
No. of Fried Fish shops.	1	
No. of Shops selling mainly minerals & ice-cream.	20	
No. of Registered Ice Cream Premises (Retail)	88	
No. of Registered Ice Cream Premises (Manufacture)	1	
No. of Registered Hawkers.	35	
No. of Registered Hawkers premises.	22	
No. of Domestic premises registered for shrimp picking.	198	
No. of Registered Milk Dealers (T.T.) other than Producer retailers.	16)	
No. of Registered Milk Dealers (Pasteurised).	6)	-see Note 2.
No. of Registered Milk Distributors.	17	
No. of Premises registered under "The Diseases of Animals" (Waste Foods) Order 1957.	9	
No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses.	4	
No. of Licensed Slaughtermen.	47	
No. of Caravan Sites Licensed under Public Health Act, 1936 Section 269 (Prior to commencement of Caravan Sites and Development Act, 1960.	20	

Note. 1. This figure does not include the many domestic premises and farmhouses which during the summer months do occasional catering.

Note. 2. Supervision of milk dealers passed to the Lancashire County Council, being the Food & Drugs authority, with effect from 1st January, 1961.

HOUSING.

It is the duty of every local authority, both morally and legally to take steps to improve the general standard of housing in its area. Although it might be superfluous to state that the solution lies partly in the building of new houses, a study of the reasons why new dwellings are necessary is worthy of some consideration. In the five years which followed after the end of the last war a high proportion of the applications for Council house tenancies were received from households which were grossly overcrowded. Bearing in mind that the conditions brought about by such overcrowding were of a serious nature, the "points" scheme which was drawn up to deal with applications was designed to weigh heavily in favour of the overcrowded household. Thus it was that most of the lettings in the early post war years were made to the families which lived in conditions of overcrowding. The position today has altered materially, in that fewer applicants attract a high number of points on this score and it can be said therefore that the problem of overcrowding, while still existing to some extent, is largely one of the past. In the main, applicants for the tenancy of Council houses now fall into two categories. Firstly the newly married couple who live with parents and who wish, rightly so, to set up their own home. This type of applicant will always be on the waiting list until house building reaches such a pitch that the letting of a private house is difficult, and taking the area as a whole, such a position is not likely in the foreseeable future. Secondly the people who have been content until now with the amenities normally available in a cottage built a hundred years ago or more, but who now demand, quite justifiably, such facilities as a bathroom, hot water supply and proper food store. It can be argued that many of the existing cottages in this area could be improved to provide these facilities with the aid of Improvement Grants and this is perfectly correct. Much good has been effected by the Improvement Grant schemes, but the original hopes that these schemes would improve the standard of tenanted property have in the main not been realised. By far the great majority of applications for Grants have come from owner occupiers and for this reason a steady building programme must be maintained until such time as legislation demands that the facilities to which I have referred are made compulsory.

The need to replace "unfit houses", a term more appropriate for rural areas than "slum houses" is a further reason for the building of new houses. I think it will be agreed that progress in this direction has been very limited, and with respect I would suggest that the problem should be tackled with greater zest than hitherto. At the time of preparing this report the only post-war Clearance Area scheme which is within sight of completion is the one at Mill Yard, Cark. Confirmation of Orders in respect of property at Bouth (Commercial House Yard) and Cartmel (Gladstone Terrace) is being sought, but no action has yet been taken to make an Order for the demolition of a terrace of dwellings at Skeldon Moor, Little Uswick, which property was originally represented by the Medical Officer of Health in 1956. In a report submitted by the Medical Officer early in 1960 he pointed out, inter alia, that 26 houses in proposed Clearance Areas at Little Uswick, Gleaston, Backbarrow, Kirkby and Stott Park would require to be dealt with by 1965. Four years hence may seem sufficiently remote for complacency to be permitted, but the present rate of progress in my view gives cause for concern. In addition there still remain the 9 condemned dwellings (6 at Coniston and 3 at Kirkby) which are licenced for occupation until August 1962, and a further 15 houses in varied districts which are still occupied though subject to Demolition or Closing Orders.

The houses referred to in the previous paragraph are of a type which are not likely to encourage major reconditioning schemes in order to escape demolition. Their situation, lack of size and unsatisfactory internal arrangements preclude this and the only satisfactory solution lies in their demolition. There are other individual houses however, very often completely detached, which for other reasons are so unfit as to be seriously prejudicial to health and on present reckoning they number 45 in all. Some of these are quite pleasantly situated and for this reason some people are prepared to purchase them for their own occupation and spend considerable sums on works of reconditioning, often with the aid of Improvement Grants. I think it will be agreed that this is a desirable trend and for this reason I have purposely refrained from taking steps which would commit the Council to setting demolition procedure in motion in all but the most urgent cases. Furthermore, some of these individual unfit properties are owner occupied, very often by elderly people who do not wish to be disturbed in the limited time which they have left to them. Although the Housing Act does not condone inaction in such cases I think the Council is morally right in using the soft pedal.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In order to assess the quality of the water supplied to householders throughout a complete year, monthly sampling of all the public water supplies was commenced in 1959. The exercise yielded the following results which have since been submitted to the newly formed Water Board. Firstly that in the winter months natural pollution of the water sources is at a level which while not always satisfying the high standard prescribed by the Ministry of Health, gives in most cases little cause for concern. Secondly, that in the summer months the grazing of cattle on the gathering grounds results in serious pollution which at the present time can only be counter-acted by efficient chlorination. Thirdly that the efficient chlorination of the comparatively small water schemes involving limited storage capacity is extremely difficult.

In my opinion it should be the policy of the Water Board to adopt a long term policy involving replacement of the small schemes now supplying the High Furness area with (if possible) one single source.

During the year 109 samples of the various public supplies were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston for bacteriological examination. Approximately half of these yielded results which were classified as unsatisfactory as shown by the following table.

	<u>No. of samples taken.</u>	<u>No. Satisfactory.</u>	<u>No. Unsatisfactory.</u>
(a) Raw Water	51	16	35
(b) Chlorinated Water	58	35	23

The excessive rainfall during the year ensured that there was no shortage of water and this applied to the many private supplies throughout the area. The improvement of houses, involving the provision of bathrooms led to several requests for advice on increasing the yield from private supplies, and in all cases such help was given.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In my report for the year 1959 I expressed the opinion that whilst the provision and improvement of water supplies since the war could be regarded with some satisfaction, the position with regard to the availability of public sewerage was a matter of regret. This contention must be reiterated once again, as apart from the projects at Ayside, and Bouth no schemes seem due to be implemented in the near future. The need for such facilities in the Finsthwaite, Lakeside and Tarn Close areas are the most acute, as evidenced by the nuisances which are frequently reported. I am of course aware that a long term policy to provide new and improve existing sewage disposal schemes is in being, but I am of the opinion that the plan should be accelerated.

At the time of making this report the Council has received delivery of a vehicle specially designed for the purpose of emptying sewage tanks, the purchase of which I advocated in my previous annual report. The acquisition of this vehicle will undoubtedly be of great benefit not only to many ratepayers but also to the Council in that serious nuisances which hitherto were liable to exist for lengthy periods can now be dealt with rapidly.

The number of private septic tanks in the area is now estimated to be rather more than 800, of which about 240 are of post war construction.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

The inspection of catering establishments and other food premises, particularly during the summer months, is one of the most important duties carried out by the department. In a very few instances minor breaches of the Food Hygiene Regulations were observed but the results brought about by persuasion have obviated recourse to any legal proceedings in respect of catering establishments and shops.

By the end of the year 198 dwellings in the Flookburgh, Cark, Allithwaite, Lindale and Aldingham areas were registered for the purpose of shrimp picking. In the comparatively short period when these premises were in use (May - October) it was possible to make inspections at least once, with extra visits to certain "suspect" premises. Quite frequently however it was found that no shrimp picking was actually taking place at the time and the value of the visit was therefore very limited. On one occasion, a person was found to be smoking a cigarette whilst actually picking shrimps and this resulted in successful legal proceedings. On the subject generally I can only repeat my comment of last year when I voiced the opinion that the registration scheme is satisfactory only in theory, and that it should be the policy of the Government to ensure that as soon as possible means should be found to confine the work to hygienic central pickeries.

In my report for last year I mentioned that pursuant to a Report submitted by the Council on the subject of slaughtering facilities in the area, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food had appointed the 1st January, 1961 as the date when full compliance with the Regulations concerning the standards and practices in slaughterhouses would be compulsory. At that time four private slaughterhouses were in operation and it appeared that all would be brought to the required standard. With effect from the 1st January, 1961 however, only three premises continued to function, these being situate at Urswick, Ayside, and Kirkby. The latter establishment is licensed for the slaughtering of sheep and pigs only as the owner declined to effect the major works necessary to permit the slaughter of cattle. The premises now licensed have been extensively modernised and comply with all requirements now in force.

The quality of meat produced in the private slaughterhouses is of a high standard and the minor condemnations made in no way reflect upon the integrity of the butchers concerned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	526	109	15	2509	235
Number inspected	526	109	15	2509	235
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	1	2	7	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	49	73	-	375	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticercosis....	9.5%	67.9%	13.33%	15.2%	2.1%
<u>Tuberculos only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	-	-	-	-	.43%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-

MILK SAMPLING.

Although the responsibility for the control of milk production is one for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, any local authority, notwithstanding that it may not be a Food & Drugs Authority is quite entitled to sample milk supplied to consumers in its area to ascertain its cleanliness and freedom from disease producing organisms. Whilst the authority on advice of its Medical Officer of Health can take immediate action where any milk is likely to cause disease, shortcomings in respect of the cleanliness and keeping quality of milk can only be dealt with by the Ministry. In practice the sampling carried out by the Ministry is augmented in this area by additional sampling effected by this Department and any adverse reports are passed to the Ministry for such action as may be deemed necessary. Of 58 samples taken during 1960 none proved to harbour the tubercle bacillus and only 4 failed to conform to the keeping quality standard demanded.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING.

The post war growth of the pastime of caravanning has been so rapid that even ten years ago the limited powers of control granted to local authorities under the Public Health Act, 1936 proved to be woefully inadequate. The powers of control given by the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 were not retrospective and were thus quite useless in dealing with the blackspots in the area which had existed prior to that date. At the end of August, 1960 the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act came into force, and although action to improve the general standard of amenity and public health conditions will necessarily take some time, local authorities now have a weapon which if used correctly, will prove to be of great benefit. By the end of the year applications for site licences under the new act had been received in respect of all sites which had either received earlier planning approval or had the benefit of an existing use right prior to the 1947 Act. Owing to the pressure of work which fell upon the Planning Authorities it was not possible to deal with these applications before the end of the year and therefore the action which ensued is not within the scope of this report. Suffice it to say that it now seems certain that the summer of 1962 will see a great improvement in the standards of hygiene which are based on Model Regulations issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. These Regulations cover a very wide field and include provisions as to spacing, water supply and sanitation, refuse disposal and fire fighting precautions. The latter is something quite new and although its inclusion has no doubt been prompted by the occasional disastrous caravan fires of which we read from time to time, I am not convinced that the Model Regulation on this question is one of great value. The Model requires that where it is not practicable to instal fire hydrants, static water tanks containing not less than 100 gallons of water, together with buckets and a hand pump shall be provided within a radius of 300 feet from any caravan. No mention is made of individual portable extinguishers either as an alternative or additional precaution. I have discussed this aspect with the Regional Fire Officer, who contends that the Model as it stands prescribes the best means of fighting fires involving caravans, and that portable extinguishers cannot be accepted in lieu. On this evidence it would be virtually impossible for the Council to deviate from the Model, and although the site owners are now arranging to comply with the requirement, they are showing little enthusiasm for it.

Whilst control of caravanning will be greatly strengthened with the advent of the 1960 Act, it is a matter of regret that the Act did nothing to help local authorities faced with the camping problem. Despite bad weather in the summer of 1960 the number of campers using farmers fields and even common land was at least equal to the number in the previous year. In July the Council appointed a Sub Committee to inspect the whole of the area with a view to obtaining a first hand knowledge of the problem and to examine the existing powers of control. The tour of inspection occupied two whole days in the following month at a time when unfortunately the peak had just passed and conditions not at their worst. Enough was seen however to realise the need for control and arrangements were put in hand to seek these under Local Byelaws, as the Model Byelaws on this subject proved to be sadly inadequate. At the time of making this report it is apparent that such Byelaws as may be approved will leave much to be desired in the way of effective control but the Council will have to be content with the proverbial "half loaf".

For the information of those who would imagine that any new control will result in a considerable reduction in the number of campers using the area, particularly at Bank Holiday week-ends and during most of July and August, I would hasten to point out that no such effect is likely. Camping is growing in popularity, and the new powers which the Council may acquire shortly will only govern the public health conditions on the sites.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work of rodent control continued satisfactorily during the year, attention being given promptly to all complaints and routine inspections being carried out by the Rodent Operator. In addition to private households, Council sewers and refuse tips, 17 contracts to execute the necessary work on agricultural holdings were in force. By far the great majority of farm treatments are carried out either by a private contractor or by the farmers themselves and it does not seem likely that the number of Council contracts will increase appreciably in the near future.

The following table shows the extent of the work carried out during the year, including the Council's refuse tips and sewers.

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>		<u>Agricultural</u>
	Dwelling houses.	All other.	
No. of properties in district	4,850	1,512	643
No. of properties inspected	1,322	684	117
Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	1,475	762	243
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats - major	69	22	14
minor	392	29	49
Mice - major	21	-	4
minor	79	-	-
No. of infested properties	561	51	67
Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	637	76	67
No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	Nil	Nil	Nil

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.CLAYDON,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

